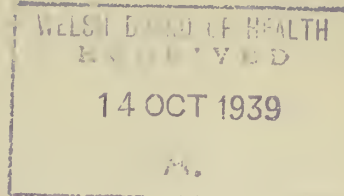


Whitehall



BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL _ _ REPORT
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
1938

COUNCIL OFFICES.
BRYNMAWR
AUGUST 1939:

BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman 1938 Councillor Gurnos Jones J.P.

Chairman 1938 Public Health, Housing & Highways
Committee:-
Councillor Gurnos Jones J.P.

MEMBERS.

North Eastern Ward

Coun. D.M. Jenkins
Coun. T.J. Minton
Coun. Tom. Parry.

South Eastern Ward

Coun. E.A.Griffiths
Coun.Frank Bush.
Coun. Mrs C.M. Gardner.

Central Ward.

Coun. Daniel Harris
Coun. Gurnos Jones J.P.
Coun. Denias Smith.

Western Ward

Coun. B.W.Jones,
Coun. J.E.Jones,
Coun. James Lewis
Coun. B.Morgan

Southern Ward.

Coun. W.M.Jenkins.
Coun. J.R.Morgan,
Coun. J.T.Harding
Coun. T.H. Davies.

Public Health Officers of the
Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time)	Dr. S.N. Chopra	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector Surveyor. (Full time Joint Appointment)	John Joseph Quirk.	

To the Chairman and Members
of the Brynmawr Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual
Report respecting the Health and Sanitary Conditions
of the Urban District of Brynmawr during the year
1938.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

Brynmawr was constituted a Local Government
District by order of the Local Government Board
dated May 1851, and consists of the Parish of
Brynmawr in the County of Brecknockshire.

The Area of the District is 1,454 acres.

The Urban District is divided into five Wards
namely, North Eastern, Central, South Eastern,
Western and Southern. Three seats on the Urban
District Council are allotted to each of the first
three Wards and four to the latter two Wards,
making a total membership of 17, whilst the County
Authority representation is one member for each
Ward.

Brynmawr Urban District is situated at the top
of the Western Valleys of Monmouthshire and is on
the route of the Main Road from Abergavenny to
Merthyr. The Eastern Valleys, Western Valleys,
and the Tredegar Valleys are easily accessible
from the town of Brynmawr.

The Elevation above sea-level at various points
in the Urban District are as follows:-

Market Square	1156 feet
Beaufort Gate	1278 feet
Bridgend Inn	1099 feet
Reservoir	1450 feet
Sewage Works	1000 feet
Clydach Valley	
Springs	950 feet

Coal mining is the chief occupation of the
inhabitants of the area. Very few people have, up
to date, found employment at the Steel-Works in
Ebbw-Vale.

The Brynmawr Bootmakers and Cabinet-makers
absorb a small number of workmen. Depression in
Trade still continues and the majority of workers
in the area, particularly mine-workers over 50,
are unemployed.

The Council's proposal to build a block of
78 new houses will it is hoped, alleviate some
of the unemployment in the town.

In spite of the proposed erection of these 78 new houses, there are still a considerable number of families who are living under the most deplorable conditions of overcrowding and bad sanitation. The dampness of the Old Houses tends to create rheumatism and diseases of the lungs. Many more houses are still required to meet these needs.

Malnutrition is considerable, especially among the womenfolk of the unemployed.

Notwithstanding the acute unemployment prevalent in the area, the Health Department has done everything possible to maintain a high standard of health and sanitary conditions.

The population of the area is still steadily decreasing due to the exodus of the young people who have left their homes to find employment in more prosperous areas and towns.

The decline in population from the 1921 to the 1931 census was 1253. The Registrar General's return for 1938 shows a further reduction of 70 during the year.

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid Year) 1938 was 6622.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 according to the Rate Book was:- 1600

The Rateable Value of the District is :- £19016

The product of a penny rate for the Financial Year ending 31st March 1939 is:- £46.

Rates in the £.	General Rate	18. 1
	Water Rate	1. 0
	Total.	19. 1

Extracts from the Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate.

Live Births	Legitimate	Total 100	Males 58	Females 42
	Illegitimate	Total 6	Males 4	Females 2

Showing a BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the Estimated population of:- 16.008

1932	.....	15.74
1933	.....	13.8
1934	.....	14.77
1935	.....	14.04
1936	.....	15.82
1937	.....	14.5

Still Births:- Total 5. Males 2 Females 3.

This gives a rate per 1,000 (LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS) of :- 16.76.

1931	.....	17.57
1932	.....	16.98
1933	.....	14.35
1934	.....	15.75
1935	.....	15.48
1936	.....	17.11
1937	.....	15.69

Death Rate

The number of deaths during the year 1938 was:-

Males 53 Females 48 Total 101.

Being a DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of :- 15.25

1931	.....	15.7
1932	.....	13.5
1933	.....	10.8
1934	.....	12.95
1935	.....	13.04
1936	.....	11.9
1937	.....	15.84.

Maternal Death Rate.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	
Other Puerperal Causes	-2.	Total. 2.

Rate per 1,000 (LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS):- 18.018.

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of infants under one year:-

Legitimate	Total 3	Males 2	Females 1.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	3	2	1.

Death Rate of infants under one year:-

All infants per 1,000 live Births:- 28.3

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births:- 30.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births:- nil.

Deaths from Cancer (All Ages)	11.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All Ages)	2
Deaths from Measles (All Ages)	nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	nil.

The most noticeable cause of deaths were those from Heart Disease and other circulatory diseases and Cerebral Haemorrhage; these accounting for 30 deaths; Males 19. Females 11.

General.

Infectious Diseases reported were:-

Scarlet Fever	15	Diphtheria	8
Enteric Fever	-	Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Pneumonia	11	Erysipelas	2.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1		
Opthalmia Neonotorum	2		

SECTION B.

There has been a change in the following service provided in the Area:-

Laboratory Facilities:-

Arrangements have been made with the Monmouthshire County Council Public Health Laboratory whereby upon payment of a sum of £25 the facilities of the said Laboratory may be taken advantage of by the Public Health Authority of Brynmawr, the contract to be reviewed at the end of three years.

There has been no change in the other services:-
Viz.

Ambulance Facilities
Nursing in the home.
Clinics and Treatment Centres
Hospitals Public & Voluntary.

Nursing Homes Registration Act
1929.

A full time Midwife has been provided for the District. Provision for maternity cases is at the Local Hospital where there is a Ward especially provided for such cases. Complicated Maternity Cases are provided for at Cardiff Royal Infirmary, under

the County Council Scheme for Complicated Maternity Cases.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER The new water pump at the Clydach Valley Springs has been installed and is working satisfactorily. The Water Supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity; there being no water shortage whatever.

The water is controlled by bacteriological examinations and these are made very frequently. The Bacteriological and Chemical report made during the year is appended herewith.

Name of Water Supply:- Spring at Pumping Station.

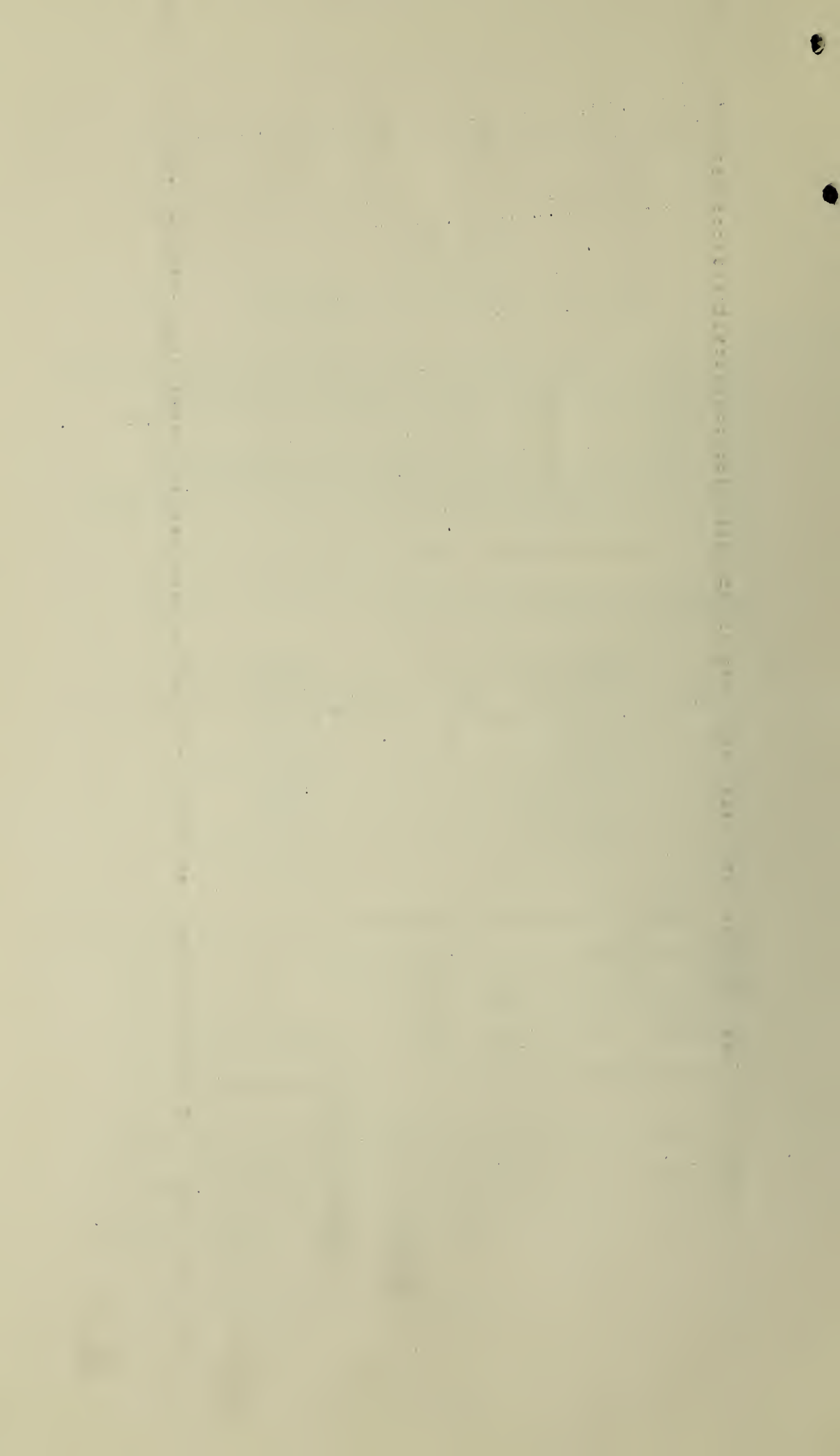
Analysis of above gives results as under, expressed in parts per hundred thousand.

Total Solids	10.40.
Suspended matter	Minute trace
Chlorine	1.05
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs	0.112.
Nitrites	absent
Nitrogen as Nitrates	faint trace
Phosphates	absent
Free Ammonia	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.008
Hardness	6.60 ⁰ Clark.
Heavy Metals	Absent.

When received the sample was clear and colourless.

Total Organisms per cubic centimetre	120.
Organisms grown on Agar at 37°C	45
Organisms of the B.Coli group	- absent in 50 c.cms.
B. Enteriditis Sporogenes	- absent in 50 c.cms.

Both the Chemical and Bacteriological examinations show that this water is of a sufficient high degree of organic purity to constitute a safe drinking supply.



WATER WORKS
CAPACITY.

The capacity of the Reservoir is 23,000,000 gallons.

RAINFALL
OF THE YEAR

The Rainfall is that recorded at (1) The Reservoir (elevation 1450 feet) & (2) at the Sewage Works (Elevation 1,000 ft)

January	Reservoir	6.78"	Sewage Wks.	7.04"
February	"	2.00"	"	2.00"
March	"	1.32"	"	0.65"
April	"	0.16"	"	0.22"
May	"	3.12"	"	3.09"
June	"	5.25"	"	3.89"
July	"	4.34"	"	4.34"
August	"	3.28"	"	3.28"
September	"	2.09"	"	2.09"
October	"	8.00"	"	8.00"
November	"	7.65"	"	7.65"
December	"	6.39"	"	6.39"

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

Is quite satisfactory

Rivers and Streams

No pollution.

(i) Closet Accommodation

The water carriage system is in operation in the town and is generally satisfactory.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The refuse collected is that from the houses and also the sweeping of the streets. This is collected by means of a covered motor lorry and taken to the tipping ground where waste paper and other combustible material is burned. There are no earth closets or privies in the area of collection.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Slaughter houses, workshops, bakehouses, dairies etc., have been frequently inspected, there are 429 recorded inspections.

Most of the nuisances have been dealt with by verbal representation. 61 Informal Sanitary Notices and 23 Statutory Notices have been issued.

Nature of Inspection.

No. of Inspections.

Drainage	57
Fried Fish Shops	25
Common Lodging Houses	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	46
Factories	8
Workshops	10
Bakehouses	14
Public Conveniences	50
Refuse Disposal	61
Miscellaneous	49.

(iv) Shops and Offices

40 Inspections have been made under the Shops Act 1934 with regard to heating and sanitary conveniences. 12 shops had not provided

suitable means for heating. Notices served on the owners to provide suitable and sufficient means for maintaining a reasonable temperature in their shop were duly complied with.

In 2 shops the Sanitary Accommodation was found to be insufficient and inadequate. Notices served on the owner to provide suitable sanitary accommodation were duly complied with.

(v) Smoke Abatement.

No action has been taken under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936.

(vi) Camping Sites

No. of sites in area which were used during 1938	-	nil
No. of licences in respect of same	-	nil
No. of campers (estimated)	-	nil

(vii) Swimming Bath and Pool.

The only swimming bath and pool in the town is under the control of the Urban District Council. There is a chlorination plant to ensure the purity of the water.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year three houses were dealt with for the eradication of bed-bugs.

Council Houses - nil

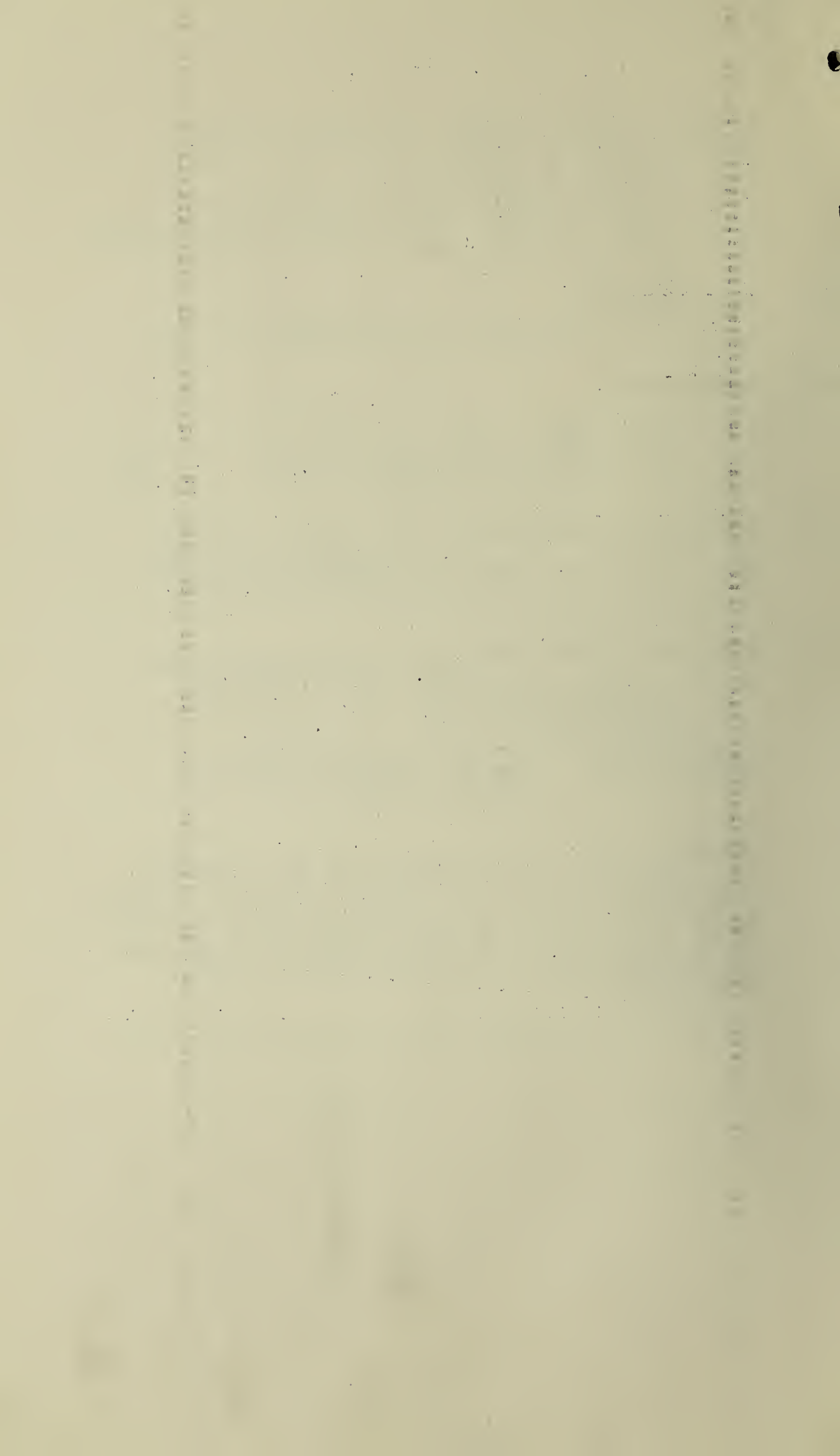
Other houses - 3.

Method Employed:- Fumigation and Spraying.

Fumigant used:- Sulphur candle & Zaldicide spraying liquid.

Schools.

There are five Elementary and one Secondary Schools in the town all of which are under the control of the County Council. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools is good and sufficient. During the year the Brynmawr Secondary School was closed from 14th October 1938 to 25th October 1938 on account of Diphtheria.



SECTION D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.	
1.(a) Total No of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	125.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	147.
2.(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	26.
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	37.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious or dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	87
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceeding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	38.
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.	
Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	8.
3. Action under Statutory powers during the year.	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs.	14.
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices.	
(a) By owners	6.
(b) By local authority in default or owners.	nil
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(1) By owner	11.
(2) By Local Authority in default of owner.	nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1) Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	nil

- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made 1.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. nil.
4. (a) Housing Act 1936. Part (iv) - Overcrowding.
- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 87.
 2. Number of families dwelling therein. 94.
 3. Number of persons dwelling therein. 564.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 8
- (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 6.
 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 38.
- (d) Particulars of any cases which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it advisable to report. nil.
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SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

17 visits have been paid to cowsheds and dairies in the area. Two cowsheds were found to be unfit and notices under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 were served on the owners to carry out repairs in order to attain the desired standard of light, ventilation and drainage.

During the year 21 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. These were examined by Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones of Newport. 4 samples only were found to be bacteriologically sound. The majority of the milk vendors in the town reside outside the Urban Area and Notices were sent under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 to the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector of these districts, regarding the unsatisfactory milk supplied to this Town, and asking them to take all necessary steps to ensure that the milk supplied to the Town is improved.

Three of the milk samples taken were found to contain Bacilli Tuberculosis, and were reported to the Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture at Brecon who carried out the

37 visits and inspections have been paid to (usual ice-cream premises and milk shops in the town. (investigations)

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Slaughter houses, bakehouses have been inspected from time to time as far as practicable. Meats and other foods have been found to be of good quality. 225 visits have been made.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	160	1028	481	4992	4210
Number inspected	136	984	345	4116	3875
All diseases except T.B. whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	83	6	207	4
Percentage of the number inspected, infected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	2.7%	8.9%	0.3%	4.9%	
Tuberculosis only, whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	9	-	-	16
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with T.B.	-	0.9%	-	-	0.5%

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- (c) Adulteration. This is attended to by the County Council.
- (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.
Arranged for by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition. This is arranged for by the County Council.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other diseases.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases, as compared to last year, is very favourable. There were eight cases of Diphtheria during the year and all were treated at home.

All cases of infectious diseases are notified by Medical Practitioners to the Schools.

Notifiable Diseases other than
Tuberculosis during the year
1938.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Small Pox	nil	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	15	nil	nil
Diphtheria	8	nil	1
Enteric Fever	nil	nil	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	nil	nil
Pneumonia	11	nil	2
Erysipelas	2	nil	nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	nil	nil
Whooping Cough			2
Other Puerpeal Diseases			2

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases
in Age Groups.

Diseases	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over.
Scarlet Fever						7	7	1				
Diphtheria					1	5	2					
Enteric Fever												
Puerperal Pyrexia									2			
Pneumonia		1	1				2	2	1	3		1

CANCER.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1935	7	4	3	7
1936	6	5	1	6
1937	11	6	5	11
1938	11	7	4	11

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken under Section 66 of the
Public Health Act 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non. Res.		Respiratory		Non Res.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
5								
15		3			1	1		
25		2						
35	1					2		
45	1			1	2	1		
55	1				1			
65 & up		1				1		
Total	3	6		1	4	5		

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S.N. Chopra

Medical Officer

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	7	0	0
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid).	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	3
Other diseases generally notifiable. (Specify disease).	-	-	-
Other diseases notifiable locally. (Specify disease).	-	-	-

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

The Tuberculosis Death Rate is 1.40 per 1,000 of population.

There was no un-notified tuberculosis death during the year.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. O. WILLIAMS.

Medical Officer of Health.

